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POL 23-9 LIBYA

Department of State TELEGRAM

Benghazi 715 9-7-69

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-17 NEA-13 AID-28 CIAE-00 DODE-00 JPM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-12 RSR-01 OPR-02 O-02 SY-03 /148 W

R 071446Z SEP 69
FM AMEMBASSY BENGHAZI
TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 237

C O N F I D E N T I A L BENGHAZI 715

FROM LANE

SUBJECT: BENGHAZI SITREP - SEPTEMBER 6 AND 7

1. WITH LIFTING OF CURFEW BETWEEN 7 AM AND 7 PM, LIFE IN BENGHAZI HAS RETURNED TO NEAR NORMAL. NUMBER OF POLICE CHECKPOSTS HAS DIMINISHED AND THERE ARE FEWER GUARDS AROUND KEY INSTALLATIONS, BUT SURVEILLANCE DURING CURFEW IS STILL STRICT. RUMORS OF DESERT TRIBESMEN COMING HAVE PRACTICALLY DISAPPEARED. MORE SHOPS ARE OPEN AND WORK IS BEING RESUMED ON MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. DEMONSTRATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR NEW REGIME HAVE BEEN GROWING SMALLER AND LESS FREQUENT AND THE CITY IS ORDERLY AND REASONABLY CLEAN.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FIRST DELIVERY OF PHANTOMS TO ISRAELI HAS CAUSED NO NOTICEABLE PROTEST IN BENGHAZI. NEWS WAS BROADCAST IN ROUTINE MANNER OVER BENGHAZI RADIO AND DOWNPLAYED IN LOCAL PRESS. PARADES IN SUPPORT OF NEW REGIME PASSING EMBASSY OFFICE HAVE MADE NO THREATENING GESTURES IN OUR DIRECTION. PRESENCE OF ARMED SOLDIERS AND MILITARY VEHICLES IN STREETS MAY BE A BLESSING IN DISGUISE.

3. AL HAQIQA AND LIBYAN TIMES NOW APPEARING DAILY. ANNOUNCEMENT TO RESUME WORK AT THE PORT WAS WELCOMED BY BUSINESSMEN. 34 SHIPS ARE WAITING IN HARBOR OR ROADSTEAD. LOCAL OFFICERS OF AMERICAN COMPANIES HAVE RESUMED PRIVATE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

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AND ESSENTIAL SUPPLY OPERATIONS. BANK MANAGERS WERE SUMMONED TO MEETING SEPTEMBER 6 BUT BANKS DID NOT OPEN SEPTEMBER 7 AS EXPECTED. LOCAL TELEPHONE SERVICE REMAINS CUT.

4. RCC CONTROL OVER BENGHAZI AND SURROUNDING AREA APPEARS FIRM. NOW COMES LONG, HARD JOB OF CREATING A GOVERNMENT AND AN ADMINISTRATION THAT WILL BE RESPONSIVE TO ITS WISHES.
BLAKE

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